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the potency of the antitoxin is diminished, by just how much is, as yet, not accurately determined. On the contrary, without the addition of the germicide, the antitoxines are preserved in all their purity and potency, but the process is open to the objection that if only a part of the contents of a flask is withdrawn for use the remainder is apt to become contaminated by the accidental introduction of bacteria through faulty technique or improperly cleaned instruments.

I am not now prepared to express an opinion on the merits of the case, but would suggest that the determination of the diminution of potency by the addition of chemical agents would be a study of value. I am deeply impressed with the belief that the toxines and antitoxines are bodies of such delicate composition and so prone to decomposition and deterioration, that every manipulation not actually demanded is better avoided; therefore, until convinced to the contrary, I would prefer, on general principles, to give my adherence to the Paris plan.

I have the honor to remain, sir,

Very, respectfully, yours,

H. D. GEDDINGS,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

NICARAGUA.

Quarantine at San Juan del Norte.

SAN JUAN DEL NORTE, *July 30, 1897.*

SIR: Referring to my dispatch, No. 395, of the 22d instant, relative to quarantine at Limon, Costa Rica, I have the honor to report as follows:

The Colombian sloop *Whisper* arrived here to-day from Colon, having touched at Bocas del Toro and Limon. There was 1 passenger, a woman. The sloop was boarded by the health officer about 2 miles from the town. The crew reported the prevalence of yellow fever at Limon. The master was ordered to remain in the lagoon, about a mile from town, and not suffer any of the crew to land until further orders. The woman passenger was ordered to remain in a building near the harbor entrance and about a mile from town for a period of seven days.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS O'HARA,

United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.

Vessels clearing from Colombian ports required to take bill of health from local medical officer.

CARTAGENA, *July 30, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have been officially notified by the governor of this department, Hon. Edward B. Gerlein, that in accordance with authority received by him for the purpose from the executive department in Bogota, it will, hereafter, be made compulsory on all vessels, prior to receiving their clearance papers from the port authorities, to take out a bill of health from the local medical officer. This bill of health is to be similar in form to that in use by Colombian consuls in foreign ports. It will certify as to the general sanitary con-